

THOR

15¢ 176
MAY

THE MIGHTY

THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



**SEE: THE GOD
OF THUNDER
TRAPPED
BY THE FLAMES OF
SURTUR
THE FIRE GIANT!**

THE MIGHTY THOR!

EVIL LOKI HAS SEIZED THE POWER ROYAL IN IMPERIAL ASGARD, WHILE AL MIGHTY ODIN SLEEPS THE FATEFUL ODINSLEEP! EVEN MIGHTY THOR IS HONOR BOUND TO PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE PRINCE OF EVIL!

AND SO, THE STAGE IS SET, FOR THE DEADLY---

INFERNO!

SO LONG AS THOU DOST WEAR THE MYSTIC ODINRING, I HAVE NO COURSE BUT TO SERVE THEE!

YET, I SAY THEE NOW, MOST SINISTER STEP-BROTHER--IN HEART--IN SOUL--IN THOUGHT AND SPIRIT--EVER SHALL I BE THY FOE ETERNAL!

A MUNIFICENT MASTERWORK BY:
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
VINCE COLLETTA ARTIE SIMEK
INKER LETTERER

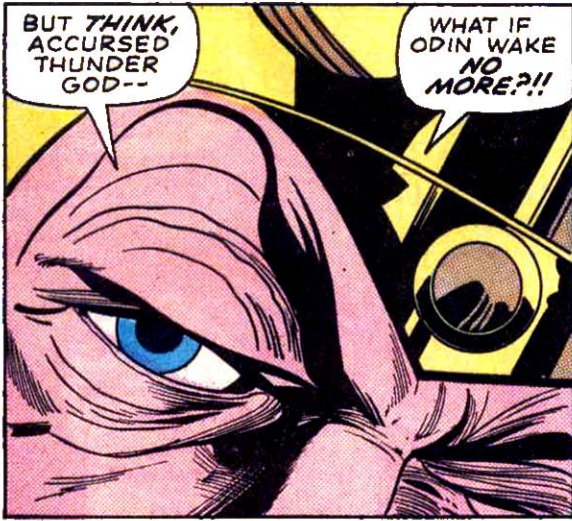
THOR is published by MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT CO., INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N. Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright ©1970 by Magazine Management Co., Inc., Marvel Comics Group, all rights reserved, 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 176 May, 1970 issue. Price 15c per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. by World Color Press, Inc., Sparta, Illinois 62286. Subscription rate \$2.00 and \$2.50 Canada for 12 issues including postage. Foreign subscriptions \$3.75.



THY WORDS ARE BUT THE BABBLING OF A VANQUISHED **SLAVE!** FOR SLAVE THOU **ART--** AND SLAVE SHALT THOU BE **EVER!**

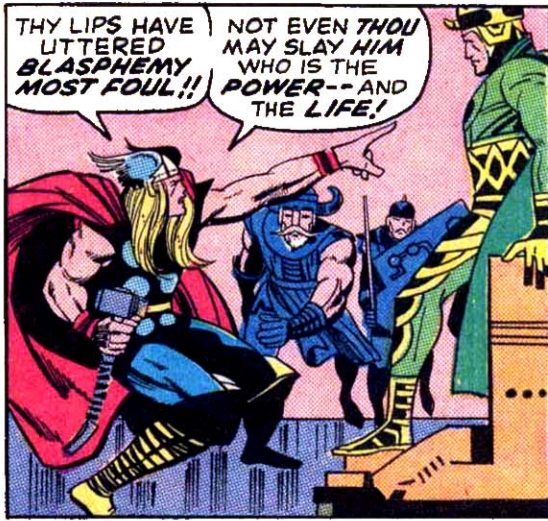
LOKI-- HAST THOU SO SOON **FORGOT?**

WHEN **ODIN** WAKES, **THOR'S** HAMMER SHALL BE FREE TO **STRIKE!**



BUT **THINK,** ACCURSED THUNDER **GOD--**

WHAT IF **ODIN** WAKE **NO** MORE?!!



THY LIPS HAVE LITTERED **BLASPHEMY** MOST **FOUL!!**

NOT EVEN **THOU** MAY SLAY **HIM** WHO IS THE **POWER--** AND THE **LIFE!**



BE THOU **SILENT,** SLAVE! THE **RING** IS MINE!

AND SO SHALL BE THE **JUDGE-** MENT!

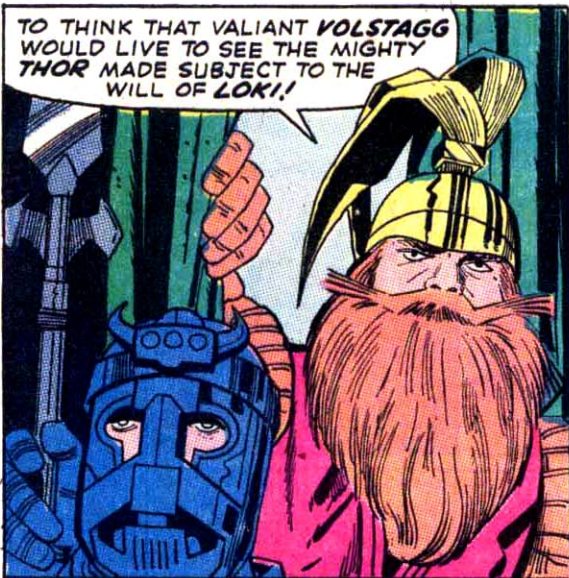


TO THE **DUNGEONS** WITH THEE! **NEVERMORE** SHALL THOR KNOW **FREEDOM!**

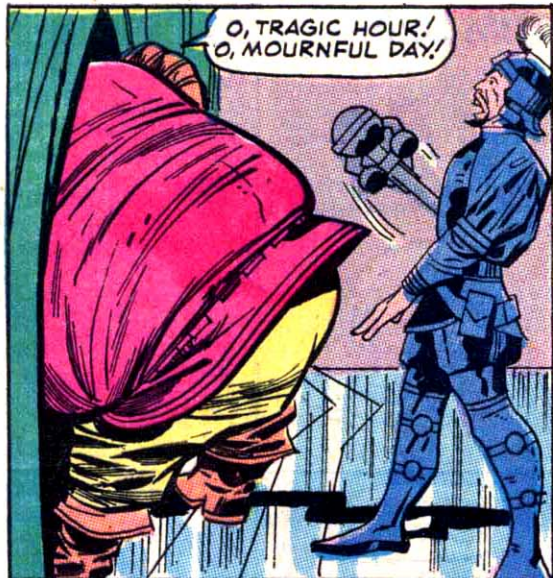
IF THOU **PREVAIL--** THEN MAY THE **HEAVENS** FALL!

FOR **LIFE** WILL HAVE **NO** MEANING!

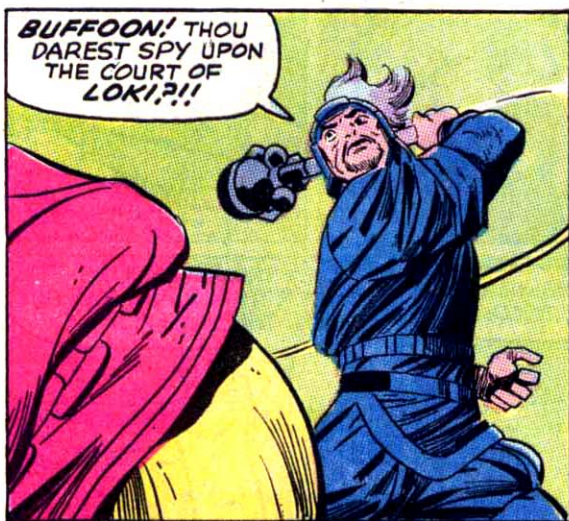
TO THINK THAT VALIANT **VOLSTAGG** WOULD LIVE TO SEE THE MIGHTY **THOR** MADE SUBJECT TO THE WILL OF **LOKI**!!



O, TRAGIC HOUR!
O, MOURNFUL DAY!



BUFFOON! THOU DAREST SPY UPON THE COURT OF **LOKI**?!!



FOR SUCH BLIND FOLLY, THOU MUST PAY THE PRICE!



WHAT?!! THE FLEA DOTH PRESUME TO GOAD THE LION?!!



THY QUIVERING FLESH--IT HATH FLATTENED MY MACE!!

NOT HALF SO MUCH AS IT NOW SHALL FLATTEN THEE!



MERCY, MOUNTAINOUS ONE!! MERCY!



MERCY--FOR HIM WHO SERVES THE EVIL LOKI??

FIE UPON THEE, BRAZEN KNAVE!

KRAK!



SEIZE HIM!
SEIZE HIM!

FORSOOTH!
CANST NOT THOU TAKE A SIMPLE JEST??



STAND THEE ASIDE, VOLUMINOUS ONE!

MY STEEL SHALL STRIKE FOR THEE!

SO SHALL MY MACE!

FANDRAL!
HOGUN!
THERE IS NO NEED--



BUT, SINCE THOU ART HERE, VALOROUS VOLSTAGG SHALL TURN ABOUT AND GUARD THE REAR!

A TASK FOR WHICH HE BE MOST PERFECT SUITED!

AYE, SINCE ALL OUR FOES NOW STAND BEFORE US!



THOUGH OUR LIPS HAVE PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE TO THY MASTER LOKI--

THE PLEDGE DOETH NOT APPLY TO SUCH AS THEE!



THUS SHALT THOU FALL-- BEFORE THE FURY OF MY MACE!



WELL SPOKE, HEROIC HOGUN!

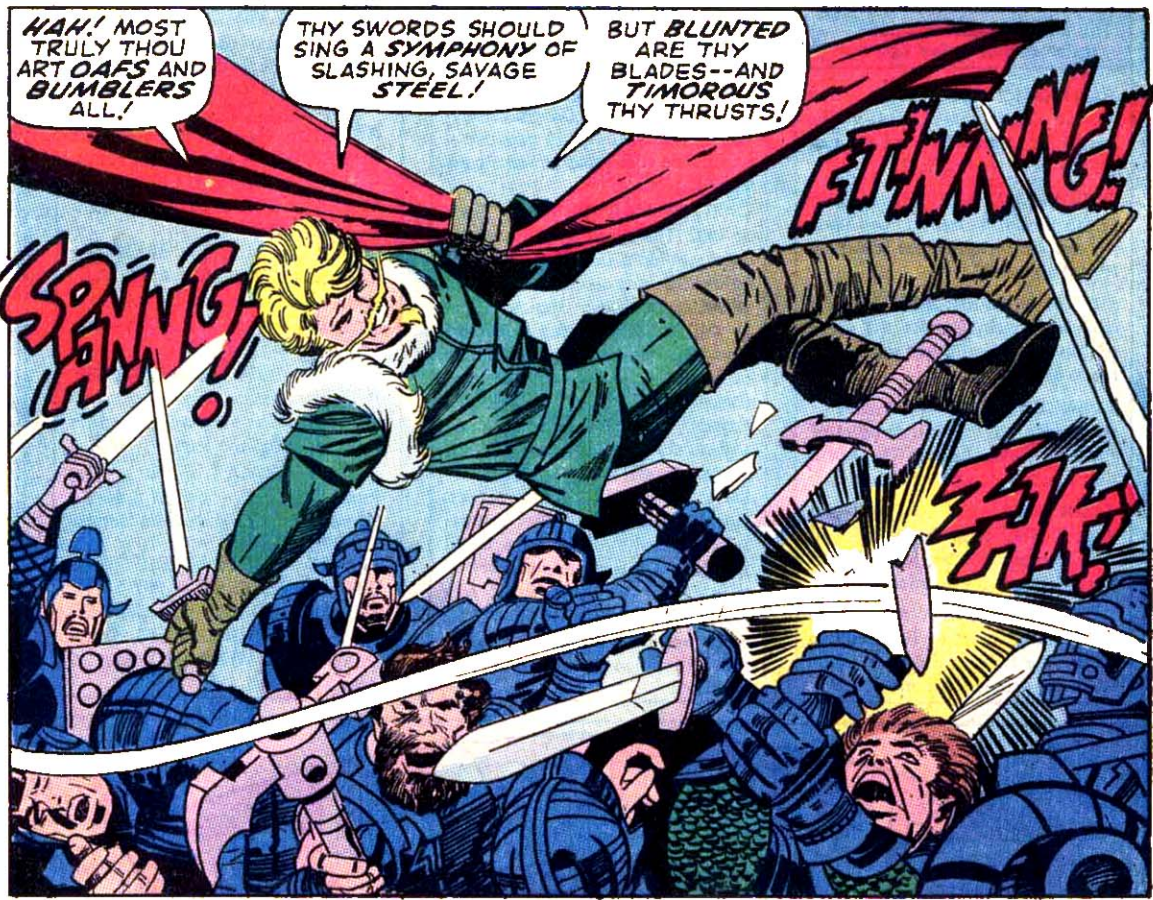
AND FANDRAL'S BLADE NOW ECHOES THEE!



FANDRAL-- TO MY SIDE! THEY SEEK NOW TO SURROUND THEE!

SURROUND THE FASTEST BLADE IN ALL THE REALM? 'TIS NOT WORTHY OF REPLY!

AND NOW BEHOLD-- 'TIS I WHO SHALL ATTACK!



HAH! MOST TRULY THOU ART OAFS AND BUMBLERS ALL!

THY SWORDS SHOULD SING A SYMPHONY OF SLASHING, SAVAGE STEEL!

BUT BLUNTED ARE THY BLADES--AND TIMOROUS THY THRUSTS!

SPANG!

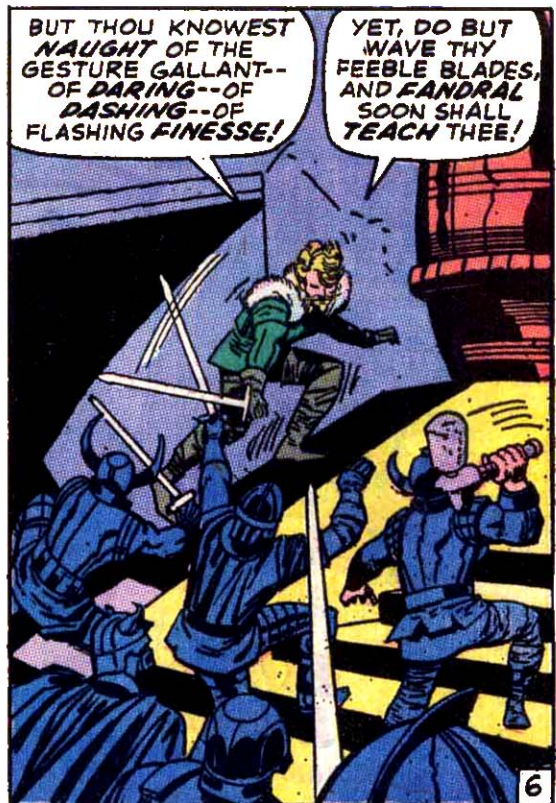
FTWING!

ZAK!



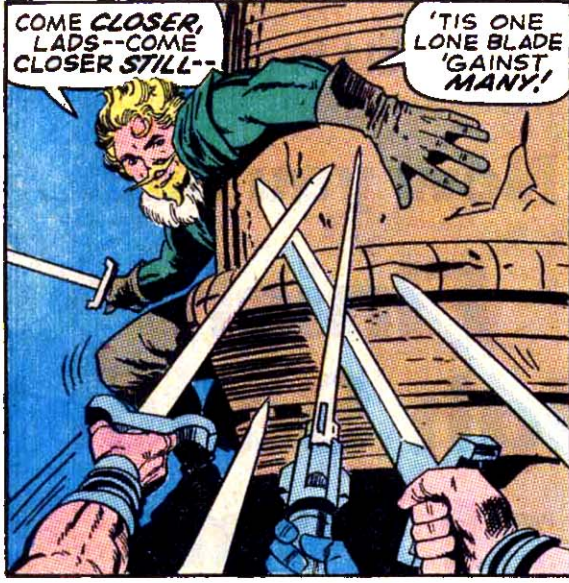
TO PARRY--TO LUNGE--WITH PERFECT GRACE--

HOW LIKE A SONNET-- HOW LIKE AN ODE!



BUT THOU KNOWEST NAUGHT OF THE GESTURE GALLANT-- OF DARING--OF DASHING--OF FLASHING FINESSE!

YET, DO BUT WAVE THY FEEBLE BLADES, AND FANDRAL SOON SHALL TEACH THEE!



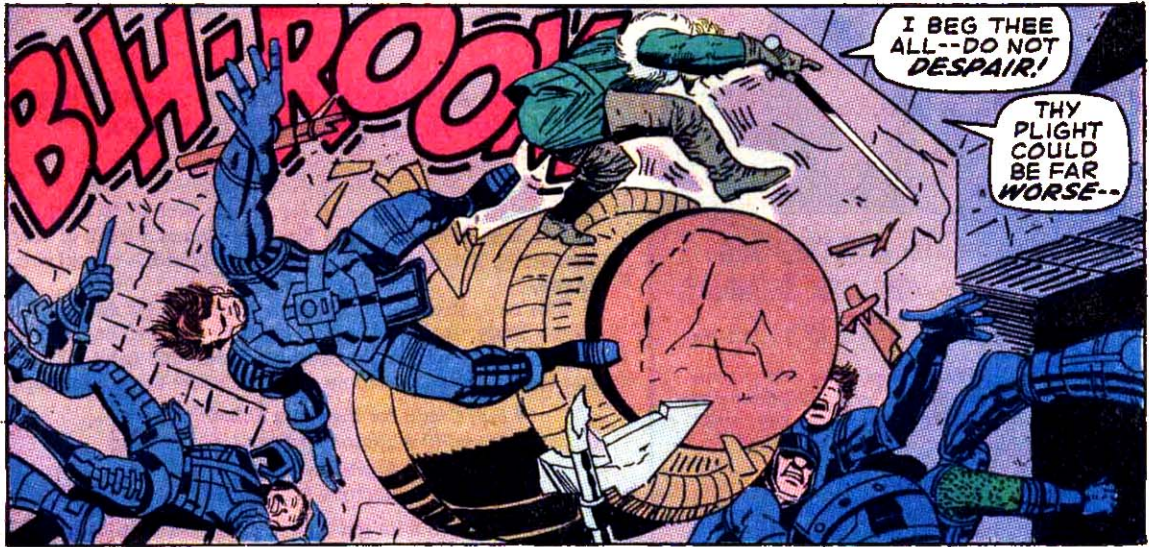
COME CLOSER, LADS--COME CLOSER STILL--

'TIS ONE LONE BLADE 'GAINST MANY!



BUT THE BLADE--AND THE SKILL--AND THE DARING TOO--BELONG TO DASHING FANDRAL!

BACK! BACK! HE TILTS THE EARTHEN VASE UPON US!!



BLH-ROO!

I BEG THEE ALL--DO NOT DESPAIR!

THY PLIGHT COULD BE FAR WORSE--



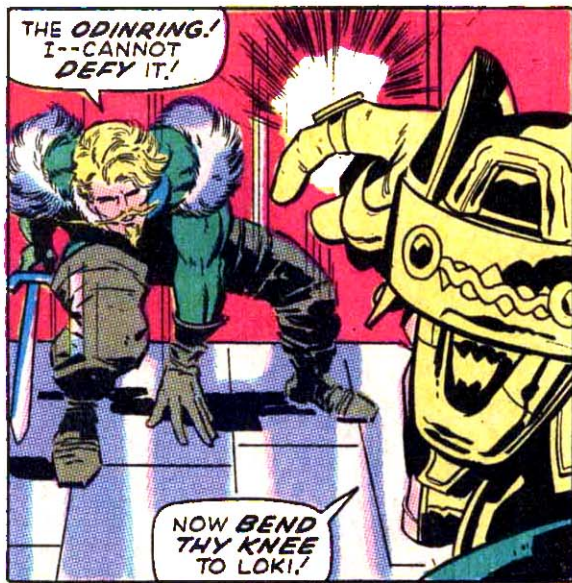
THY LESSON, ALAS, IS INCOMPLETE--

FOR, BALDER BE NOT HERE!



A MOST AMUSING PERFORMANCE, RECKLESS ONE!

BUT NOW MUST FALL THE CURTAIN!



THE ODINRING!
I--CANNOT
DEFY IT!

NOW BEND
THY KNEE
TO LOKI!



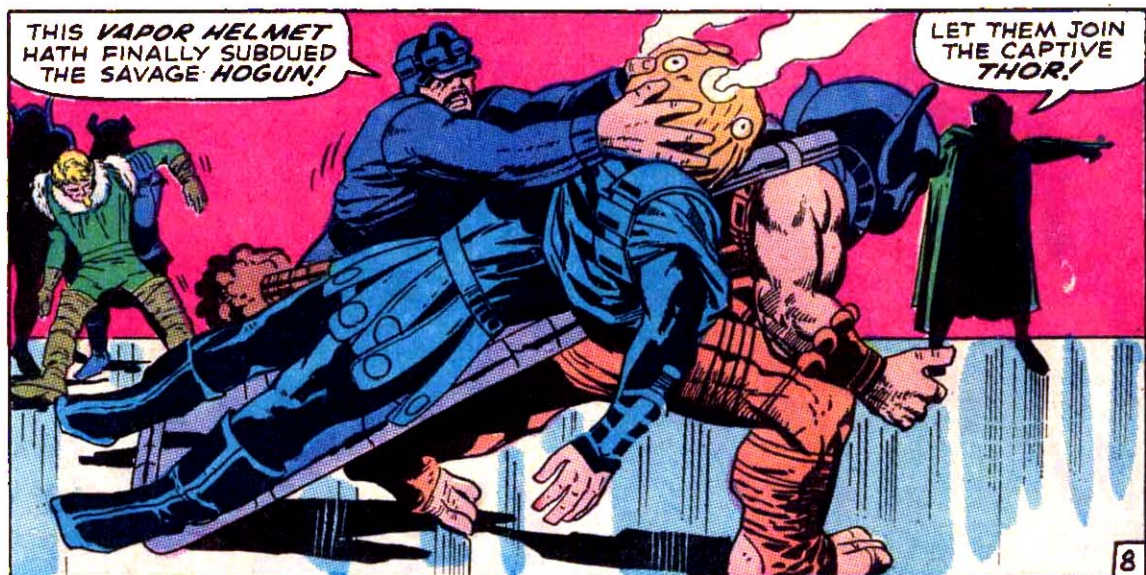
NE'ER AGAIN
SHALT THOU
OPPOSE MY
SERVITORS--FOR,
BY THE POWER
OF THIS RING
I WEAR--



FANDRAL TOO IS
LOKI'S VASSAL!

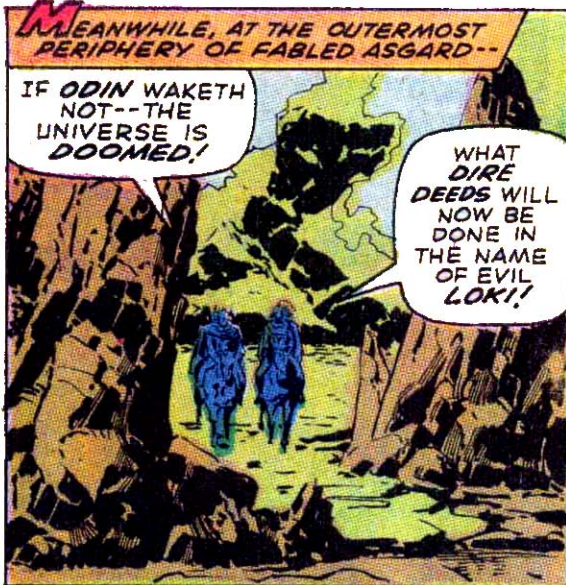


AWAY WITH HIM!
BRING HIM TO
THE OTHERS WHOM
THY LIEGE HATH
VANQUISHED!



THIS VAPOR HELMET
HATH FINALLY SUBDUED
THE SAVAGE HOGUN!

LET THEM JOIN
THE CAPTIVE
THOR!



MEANWHILE, AT THE OUTERMOST PERIPHERY OF FABLED ASSGARD--

IF ODIN WAKETH NOT--THE UNIVERSE IS DOOMED!

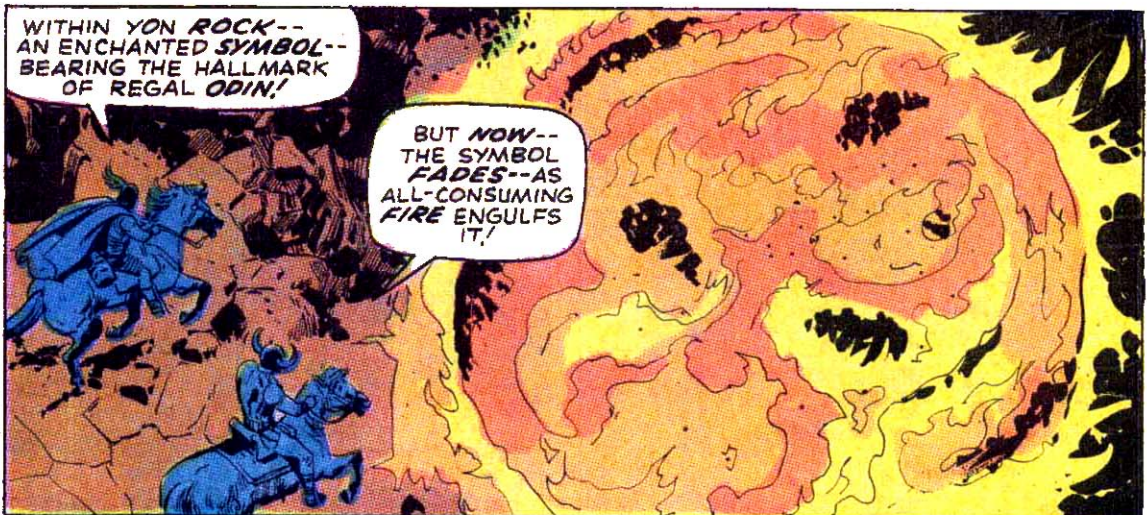
WHAT DIRE DEEDS WILL NOW BE DONE IN THE NAME OF EVIL LOKI!



WITH ODIN GONE--AND THOR ENSLAVED--WHAT AGE-OLD DEMONS SHALL AGAIN ARISE, TO--

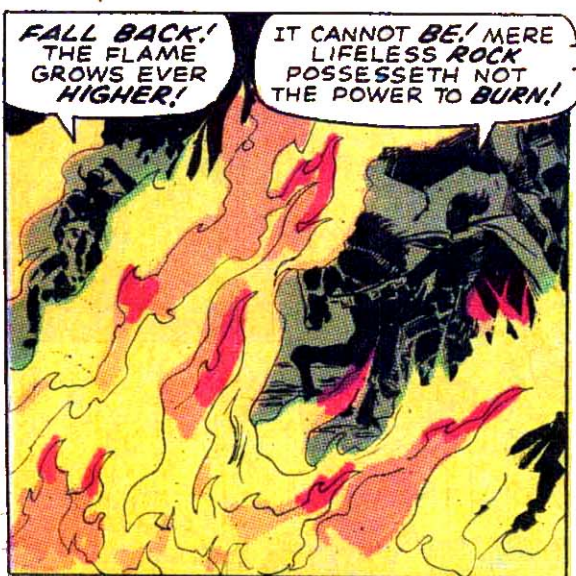
YONDER--IN THE DISTANCE--THE AWESOME SIGHT OF GROWING FLAME!

BUT WAIT! BEHOLD!



WITHIN YON ROCK--AN ENCHANTED SYMBOL--BEARING THE HALLMARK OF REGAL ODIN!

BUT NOW--THE SYMBOL FADES--AS ALL-CONSUMING FIRE ENGULFS IT!



FALL BACK! THE FLAME GROWS EVER HIGHER!

IT CANNOT BE! MERE LIFELESS ROCK POSSESSETH NOT THE POWER TO BURN!



BY THE GOLDEN GATES! IT DOTHT EXPLODE!

WHAT MAGIC DO WE THIS DAY WITNESS?

BUT, BEFORE THE ANSWER CAN BE LEARNED--WE MUST VISIT A HIDDEN DUNGEON CELL--

FANDRAL! HOGUN!
THEN--LOKI'S
TRIUMPH IS TRULY
COMPLETE!



BUT,
THERE BE
STILL NO
SIGN OF
NOBLE
BALDER!

WHO SPEAKS OF **BALDER**
WHEN VORACIOUS **VOLSTAGG**
IS THUS SUMMARILY
MANHANDLED?

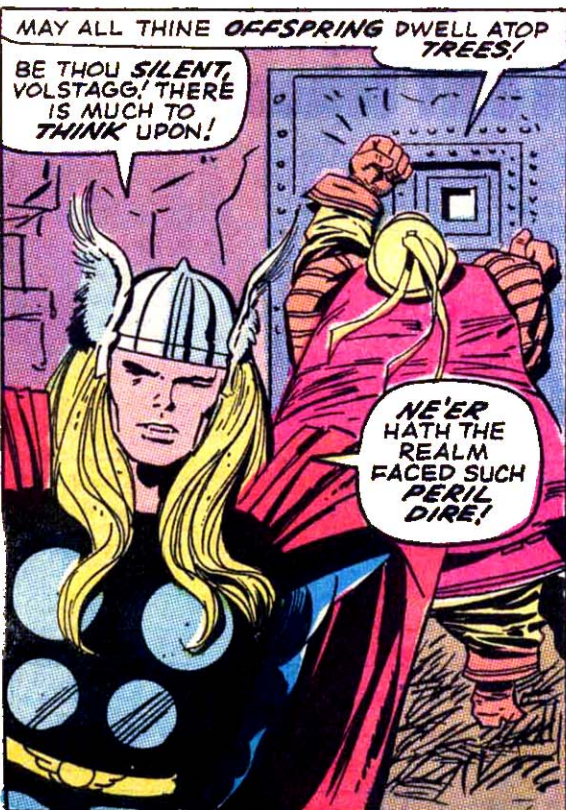
INTO THE
DUNGEON
WITH HIM!
SQUEEZE!
SQUEEZE!



ODD'S
BLOOD!
'TIS NOT
A SACK
OF FLOUR
THOU
DOST
PUMMEL!!

MAY ALL THINE **OFFSPRING** DWELL ATOP **TREES!**

BE THOU **SILENT**,
VOLSTAGG! THERE
IS MUCH TO
THINK UPON!

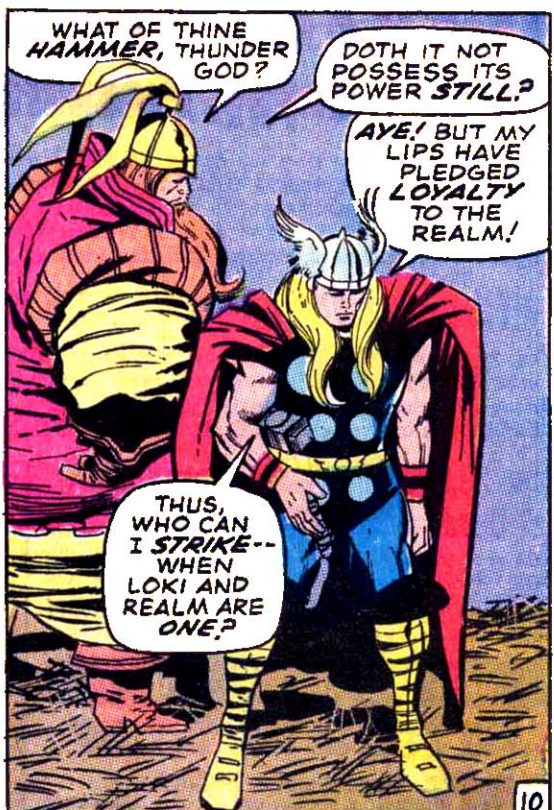


NE'ER
HATH THE
REALM
FACED SUCH
PERIL
DIRE!

WHAT OF THINE
HAMMER, THUNDER
GOD?

DOTH IT NOT
POSSESS ITS
POWER STILL?

AYE! BUT MY
LIPS HAVE
PLEGGED
LOYALTY
TO THE
REALM!



THUS,
WHO CAN
I **STRIKE**--
WHEN
LOKI AND
REALM ARE
ONE?

LOSE NOT THY
FAITH, NOBLE
THOR! NO SUCH
VOW HATH
BALDER TAKEN!

THAT IS WHY I HAVE
HID--WHERE THINE
EVIL **BROTHER** MIGHT
NOT FIND ME!

LOYAL ONE--
TRULY THOU
ART OUR ONLY
HOPE!

AND SO LONG AS
BREATH ENDURES--
I SWEAR I SHALL
NOT FAIL THEE!

BALDER!

THOUGH **LOK!**
DOETH RULE--
BALDER DOETH
NOT OBEY!

THUS AM I
AN **OUTLAW**
HUNTED!

THUS SHALL
BALDER
FIGHT
FOR THEE!

NOW STAND THEE
BACK--AS BALDER
STRIKES--IN THE
NAME OF ODIN!

FOR 'T WAS **HIM**
WHO ENCHANTED
THE **BLADE** I HOLD!

AND FOR HIM
ALONE DO I
WIELD IT NOW!

BKOW!

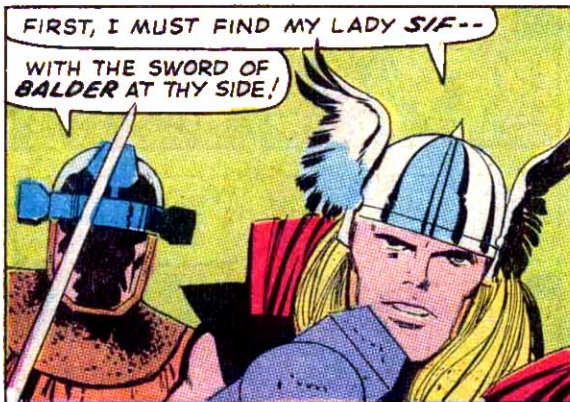


NOW ART THOU FREE TO FLEE THE REALM!

BALDER, I DO SAY THEE NAY!

THOUGH I BE PLEDGED NOT TO FIGHT--STILL MAY I SERVE!

AND SO SAY WE ALL!



FIRST, I MUST FIND MY LADY SIF--

WITH THE SWORD OF BALDER AT THY SIDE!

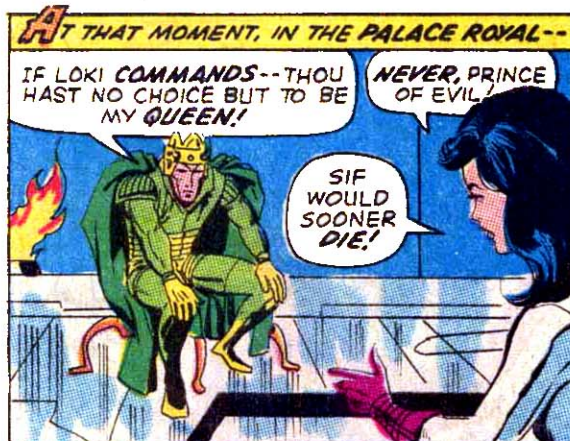


MEANWHILE, ODIN HATH GREAT NEED OF THEE!

GUARD HIM MOST WELL--TILL HE DOTH WAKE!

'T'WILL BE DONE, O PRINCE!

12



IF LOKI COMMANDS--THOU HAST NO CHOICE BUT TO BE MY QUEEN!

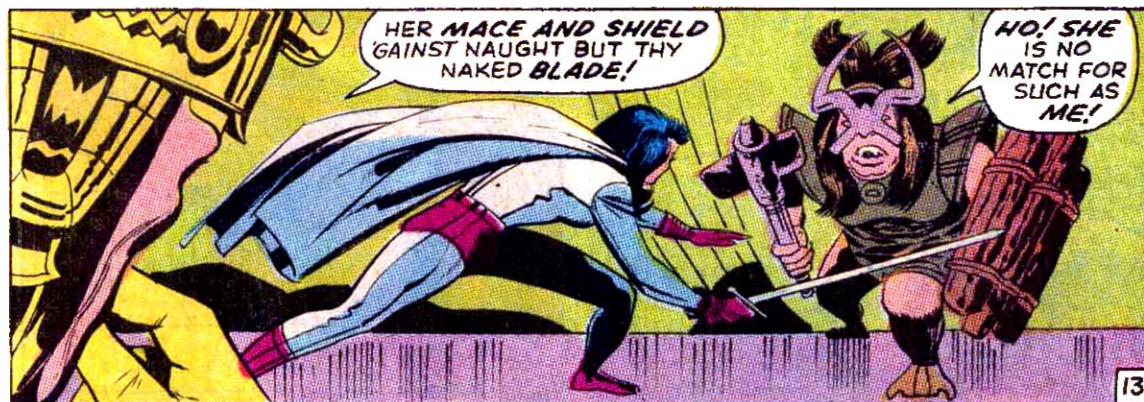
NEVER, PRINCE OF EVIL!

SIF WOULD SOONER DIE!



THEN LET ME TEST THEE! LET FEAR GIVE THE LIE TO THY WORDS SO RASH!

THOU SHALT FACE IN COMBAT A FEMALE TROLL! THEN SHALT THOU CHOOSE 'TWIXT LOKI-- OR DEATH!



HER MACE AND SHIELD 'GAINST NAUGHT BUT THY NAKED BLADE!

HO! SHE IS NO MATCH FOR SUCH AS ME!

13

BUT, EVEN AS THE UNEQUAL BATTLE BEGINS--ANOTHER STARTLING EVENT TRANSPIRES, IN A FAR DISTANT PART OF THE TORTURED REALM--

AT LAST I AM FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!

A VOICE--
FROM DEEP
WITHIN THE
MOUNTING
FLAMES!

THE DIE
IS CAST!
WITH ODIN
GONE, THE
SPELL IS
BROKE!

**SURTUR
LIVES
ONCE
MORE!**

**NOW
SHALL THE
FLAME
GIANT
TRIUMPH
OVER
ALL!**

**FIRST SHALL
ASGARD BE
DESTROYED--**

**AND THEN--
THE
UNIVERSE
ENTIRE!**

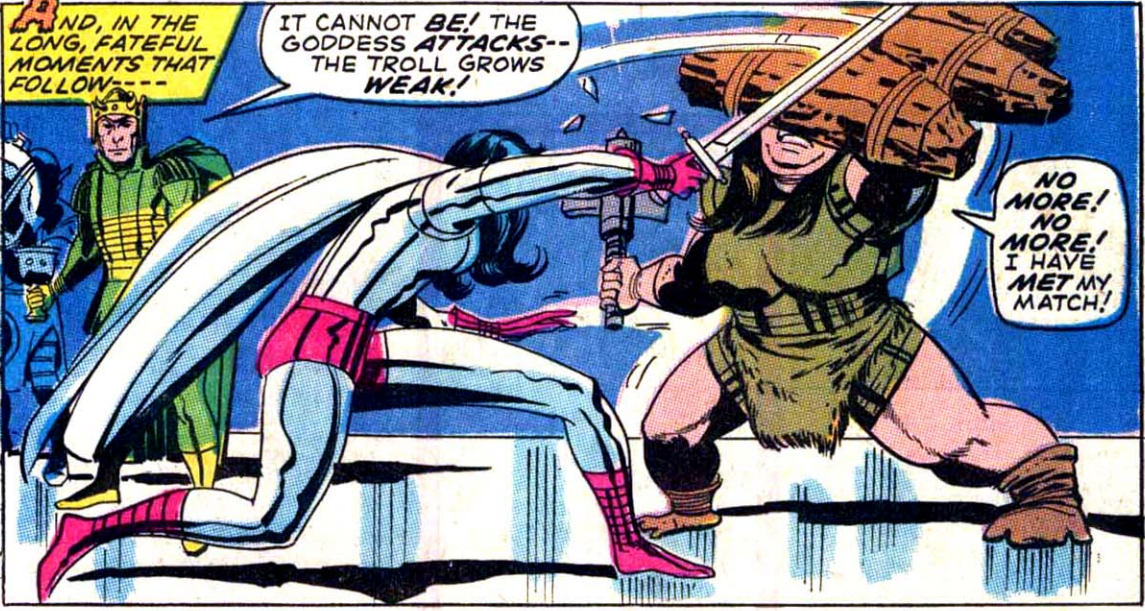
**ABOVE
US--IN
THE SKY!
A GIANT
RING OF
FLAME
DOTH
RISE!**

**IT
SEEKS TO
ENCIRCLE
THE
ETERNAL
REALM!**

AND, IN THE LONG, FATEFUL MOMENTS THAT FOLLOW---

IT CANNOT BE! THE GODDESS ATTACKS-- THE TROLL GROWS WEAK!

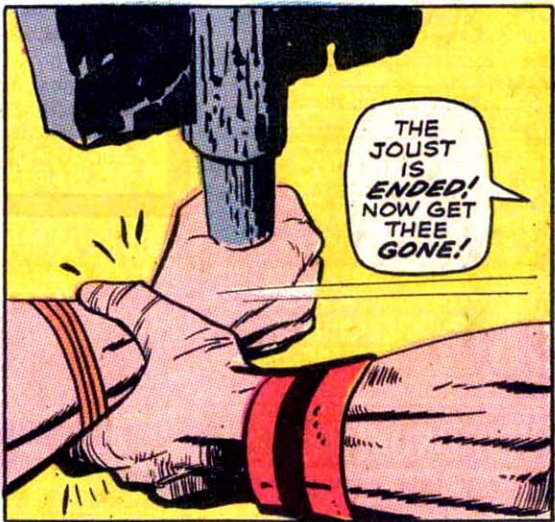
NO MORE! NO MORE! I HAVE MET MY MATCH!



FIGHT ON--OR LOKI HIMSELF SHALL SMITE THEE!

NO, SIRE-- NO, I BEG THEE--!

THE JOUST IS ENDED! NOW GET THEE GONE!



OUR FIGHT IS NOT WITH SUCH AS THEE!

LOKI, RISE! THE DEED IS DONE-- NOW MUST THOU PAY THE PRICE!

OF ALL THOU HATH BETRAYED--ONLY BALDER HATH NOT SWORN THEE FIDELITY!

NO MATTER, WARRIOR! THY WORDS ARE WASTE-- THY CAUSE IS LOST! THE PRIZE-- ALREADY MINE!

NOW SHEATH THY SWORD! 'T WILL AVAIL THEE NAUGHT!



BRING FORTH THE FABLED ENCHANTI-SCREEN!

I WOULD HAVE THEE SEE WHY THOU ART EVER DOOMED TO FAILURE!



SINCE THOU CLAIMEST TO SERVE THE SLEEPING ODIN--

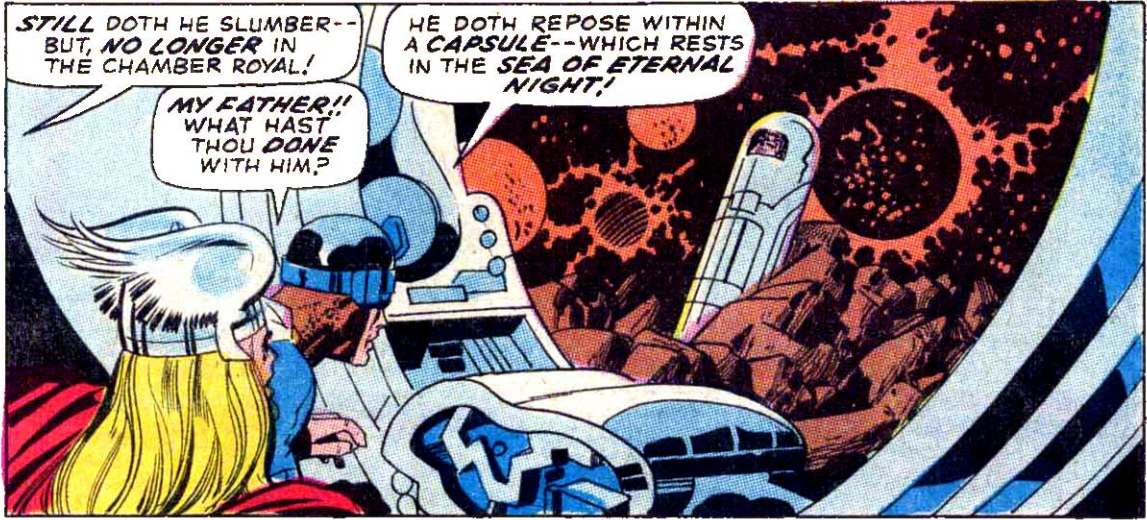
LET ODIN BE REVEALED!



STILL DOTH HE SLUMBER-- BUT, NO LONGER IN THE CHAMBER ROYAL!

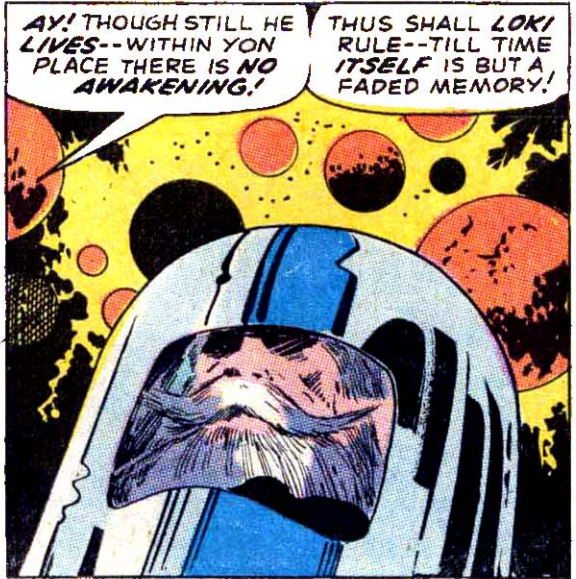
HE DOTH REPOSE WITHIN A CAPSULE--WHICH RESTS IN THE SEA OF ETERNAL NIGHT!

MY FATHER!! WHAT HAST THOU DONE WITH HIM?



AY! THOUGH STILL HE LIVES-- WITHIN YON PLACE THERE IS NO AWAKENING!

THUS SHALL LOKI RULE--TILL TIME ITSELF IS BUT A FADED MEMORY!



YOU--DARED DO THIS-- TO HIM WHO IS THE SOVEREIGN-- TO HIM WHO IS-- THE STRENGTH??!





**I DARE!!
I WOULD
DARE
ANYTHING--
FOR SUCH A
PRIZE!**

**KNOW YOU ALL--WHILST
ODIN SLEEPS--THE
CUNNING LOKI, PRINCE
OF EVIL, DOTH RULE THE
BOUNDLESS UNIVERSE!!**

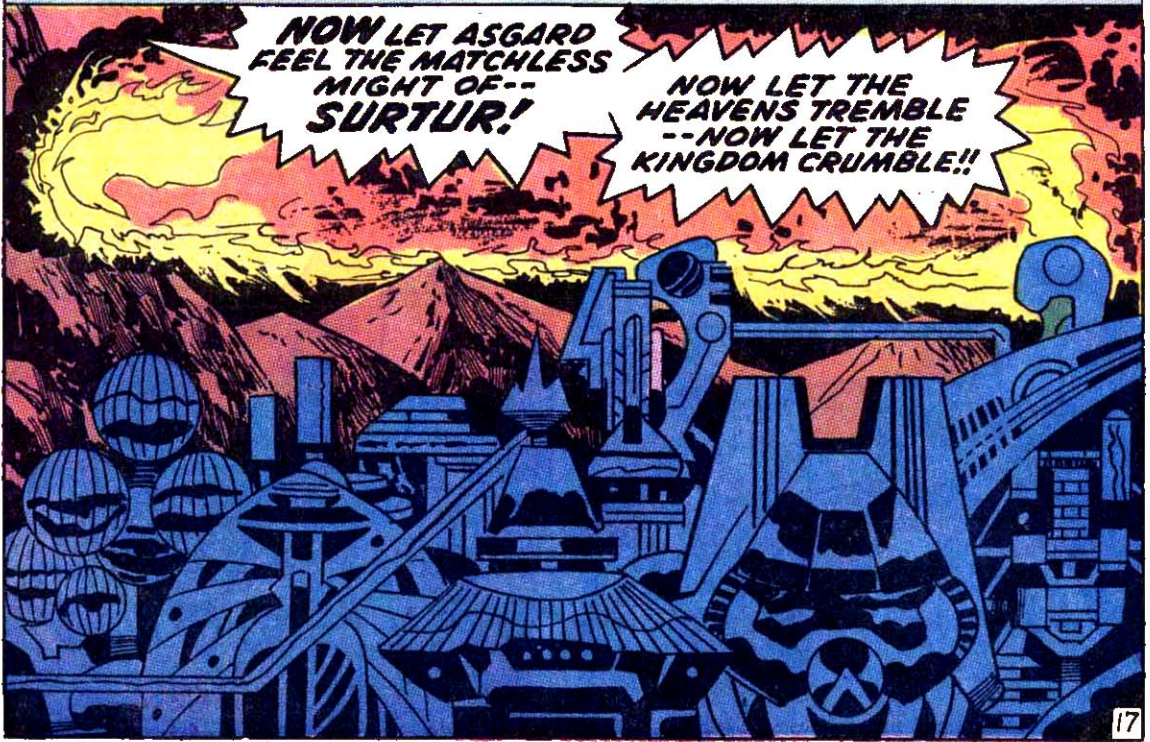


**UNSPEAKABLE VILLAIN!!
NOT E'EN THY RING SHALL
STOP ME NOW!**

**SLAY ME IF
THOU WILT--
BUT I SHALL
DIE--FOR
ASGARD!!**

**SO
SAY WE
ALL!**

BUT, BEFORE THE TAKING OF ANOTHER BREATH--THE MAKING OF ANOTHER MOVE--
A GIGANTIC RING OF SPINNING FLAME DESCENDS UPON THE REALM BELOW--



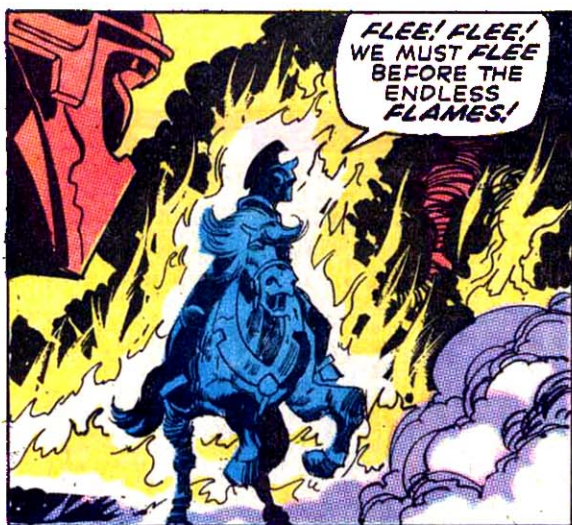
**NOW LET ASGARD
FEEL THE MATCHLESS
MIGHT OF--
SURTUR!**

**NOW LET THE
HEAVENS TREMBLE
--NOW LET THE
KINGDOM CRUMBLE!!**

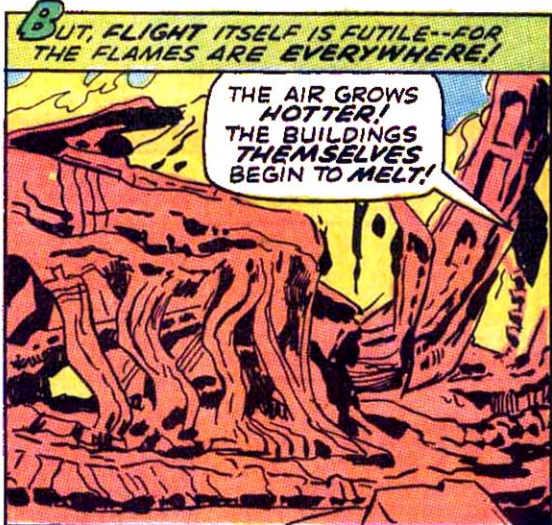


SURTUR LIVES!!
HE HATH
BROKEN
FREE OF
ODIN'S
SPELL!

NOW THERE
BE NONE TO
SAVE US!

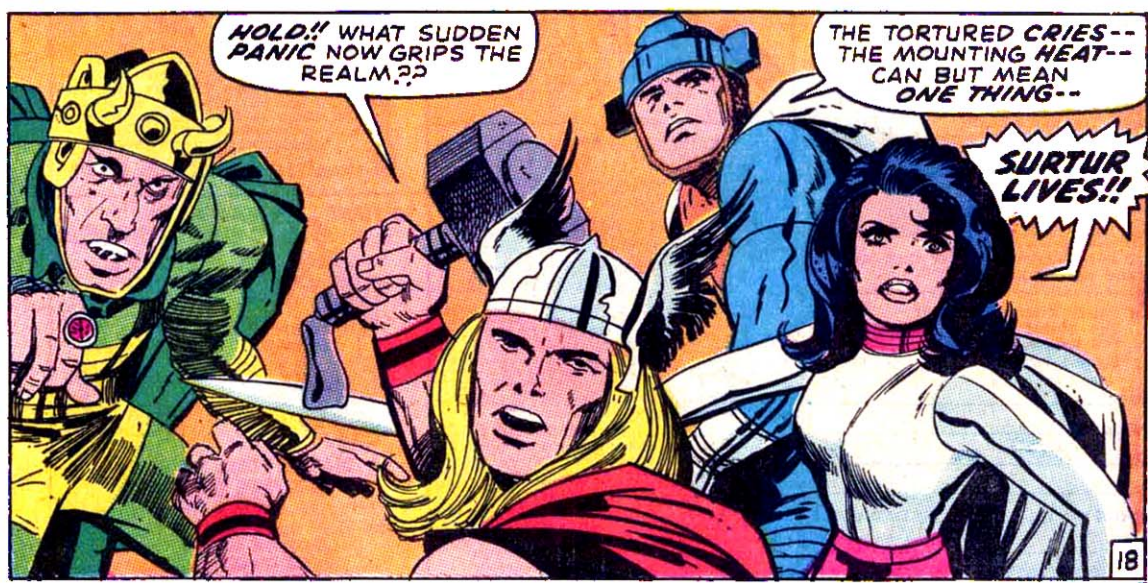


FLEE! FLEE!
WE MUST FLEE
BEFORE THE
ENDLESS
FLAMES!



BUT, FLIGHT ITSELF IS FUTILE--FOR
THE FLAMES ARE EVERYWHERE!

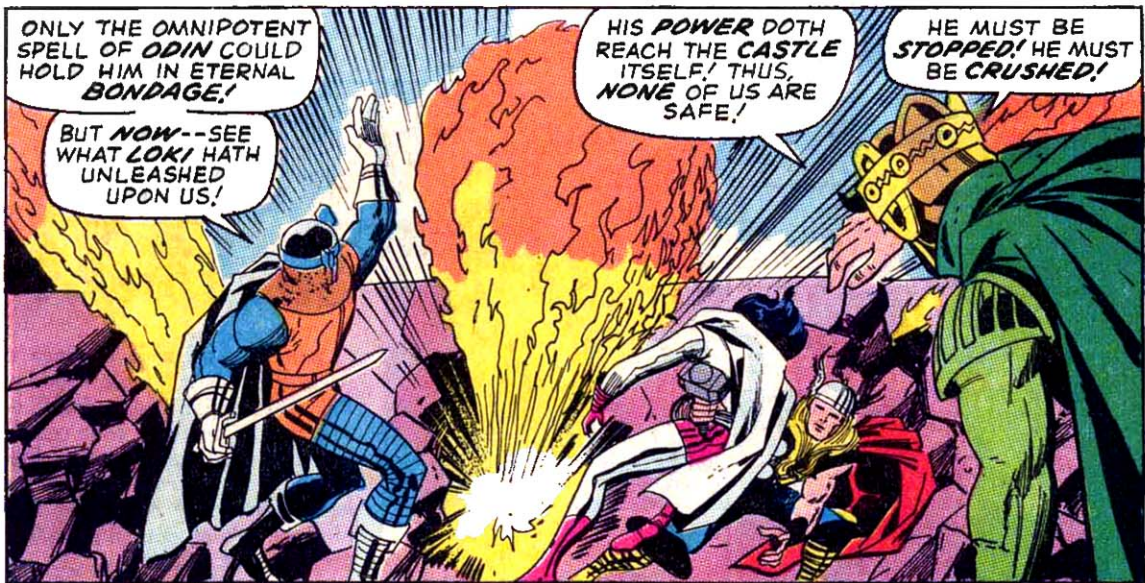
THE AIR GROWS
HOTTER!
THE BUILDINGS
THEMSELVES
BEGIN TO MELT!



HOLD!! WHAT SUDDEN
PANIC NOW GRIPS THE
REALM??

THE TORTURED CRIES--
THE MOUNTING HEAT--
CAN BUT MEAN
ONE THING--

SURTUR LIVES!!



ONLY THE OMNIPOTENT SPELL OF ODIN COULD HOLD HIM IN ETERNAL BONDAGE!

HIS POWER DOTH REACH THE CASTLE ITSELF! THUS, NONE OF US ARE SAFE!

HE MUST BE STOPPED! HE MUST BE CRUSHED!

BUT NOW--SEE WHAT LOKI HATH UNLEASHED UPON US!



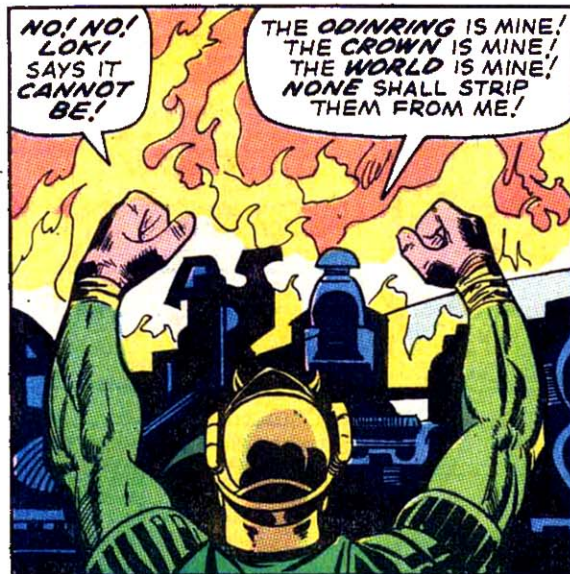
THEN DO SO, PRINCE OF EVIL!

THE SCEPTER NOW IS THINE!



IN THE STREETS-- IN THE SKY--HIS FLAMES ARE EVERYWHERE!

IS THIS THEN-- HOW THE WORLD WILL END??



NO! NO! LOKI SAYS IT CANNOT BE!

THE ODINRING IS MINE! THE CROWN IS MINE! THE WORLD IS MINE! NONE SHALL STRIP THEM FROM ME!




WITLESS COWARD! THOU CANST NOT HOLD WHAT HATH NE'ER BEEN RIGHTLY THINE! FIND SURTUR! STOP HIM! YOU MUST--I COMMAND THEE!

'TIS TOO LATE FOR THY COMMANDS!




ODIN IS SURTUR'S ENEMY SWORN!
WITH ODIN GONE--TIS LOKI SURTUR
SHALL ATTACK IN HIS STEAD!

DOST THOU FEAR ONLY
FOR THYSELF--WITH
ALL THE REALM IN
JEOPARDY??



WHAT CARES LOKI
FOR THE REALM?
LOKI IS KING!
LOKI MUST
NOT PERISH!


AYE! DEATH IS
TOO GOOD FOR
THE LIKES OF
SUCH AS THEE!



SINCE THE EVIL ONE
HATH FLED, THE
THUNDER GOD
IS FREE TO FIGHT!

THUS, THOR SHALL
LEAD THE ATTACK
GAINST DEADLY
SURTUR!

AND
WE AT
THY SIDE
SHALL
FIGHT, MY
LORD!



NAY!
THERE BE
OTHER
TASKS
FOR THEE!

I SEND THEE BOTH--YE
WHO BE CLOSEST TO
THE HEART OF THOR--TO
WAKE THE SLEEPING
ODIN!



WE DARE NOT FAIL--
FOR IF WE DO--THE
WORLD WE KNOW
SHALL ENDURE
NO MORE!

THOUGH
NOW WE
PART--THE
HEART OF
SIF IS
EVER
WITH THEE!



WARRIORS, HO!
I CALL THEE TO
MY SIDE! THE TIME
IS COME TO STAND
--OR DIE--



-FOR ASGAAAARD!

**THE FLAMES
AND THE
FINISH!**

NEXT